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FACT SHEET

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

United States Department of Agriculture • Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

April 1992

PURPOSE

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides emergency funds for sharing with farmers and ranchers the cost of rehabilitating farmland damaged by wind erosion, floods, hurricanes, or other natural disasters, and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures during periods of severe drought.

The natural disaster must have created new conservation problems, which, if not treated, would: (1) impair or endanger the land; (2) materially affect the productive capacity of the land; (3) represent unusual damage which, except for wind erosion, is not the type likely to recur frequently in the same area; and (4) be so costly to repair that Federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use. Conservation problems existing prior to the disaster involved are not eligible for cost-sharing assistance. ECP is administered by State and county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) committees.

PROGRAM ADMINIS- TRATION

Subject to the availability of funds, county ASC committees, in consultation with State ASC committees, are authorized to implement ECP for eligible farmers for all disasters except drought. When severe drought conditions exist, the determination to implement the program will be made by the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations (DASCO), ASCS, in Washington, D. C.

Cost-share levels up to 64 percent are set by county ASC committees. Eligibility for ECP assistance is determined by county ASC committees on an individual basis, taking into account the type and extent of damage. Individual or cumulative requests for cost-sharing of \$10,000 or less per person per disaster may be approved by county ASC committees, and of \$20,000 or less by State ASC committees. Cost-sharing over \$20,000 must be approved by DASCO. Technical assistance is provided by the Soil Conservation Service.

EMERGENCY PRACTICES

Emergency practices to rehabilitate farmland damaged by wind erosion and other disasters, including drought, may include debris removal, providing water for livestock, fence restoration, grading and

shaping of farmland, restoring structures, and water conservation measures. Other emergency conservation measures may be authorized by county ASC committees with approvals by State ASC committees and DASCO. Farmers or ranchers may enter into pooling agreements to jointly solve mutual conservation problems.

**LEGISLATIVE
AUTHORITY**

The Emergency Conservation Program was established by the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978, as amended by Section 502 of the Disaster Assistance Act of 1989. Funding for the program is appropriated by Congress.

This Program or Activity will be Conducted on a Nondiscriminatory Basis Without Regard To Race, Color, Religion, National Origin, Age, Sex, Marital Status, or Disability.